



**US Army Corps  
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# News Release

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## New Vessel to Bear Employee's Name

**NASHVILLE, TENN. (January 31, 2006)** – The Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will honor a Tennessee employee Friday, February 3, when they affix his name to a vessel that will ply the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers.

The **BINKLEY** Crane Shop Barge will be christened and named after Louie M. Binkley, an outstanding derrick boat operator and model employee with the Plant Unit, Navigation Branch, Operations Division, who died June 8, 2003, at the age of 43. It will mark the first time the District has named a piece of the floating plant for a Corps employee.

Binkley was hired as a maintenance worker with the Plant Unit on May 6, 1991, and worked in that capacity until July 24, 1994, when he was promoted to Lock & Dam equipment mechanic. But it was on Nov 14, 1995, that he attained the position for which he is best remembered. It was on that date that he became a derrickboat operator.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., on March 2, 1960, to Jeannette and Lewis Binkley, he lived in Chapmansboro and served as a long-time member and staunch supporter of the Ashland City Volunteer Fire Department.

Binkley worked at and on all the locks and dams on both the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. He also earned the respect and admiration of Corps employees outside the Nashville District. He represented Nashville in a stellar manner when assigned to other districts, especially

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as the Nashville representative to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division gate-lifter operational team, where he assisted new and subordinate employees in the performance of their assigned tasks and training.

He was totally dedicated to his mother Jeannette, sister Martha Dowlen and brother Michael. Martha's husband Dan currently serves as a lock operator at Cheatham Lock.

The **BINKLEY** Crane Shop Barge is 255 feet long, 56 feet wide, with a maximum draft of nine feet. It is fully self-supporting with two generators that produce 170 kilowatts of electrical power. It has a fully-equipped machine/fabrication shop and other facilities. It was designed to support a 300-ton crawler crane, which will more than double the District's heavy-lift capabilities. When the crane is delivered and installed, this unit will replace the 30-year-old Derrickboat # 10.

The District will also christen the new **Motor Vessel IROQUOIS**, a replacement vessel for one used by the District for more than 35 years. The new **M/V IROQUOIS** is 76 feet long, 35 feet wide, with a normal loaded draft of seven feet. It is equipped with the latest and most innovative navigation electronics in the industry. The two main propulsion engines produce 1,040 horsepower each for a total of 2,080 horsepower at 1,800 RPM transmitted through marine transmissions to 76-inch propellers.

Friday's ceremony will be held at the Cottonwood Picnic Shelter on Cheatham Lake, just upstream from the Lock and Dam at Noon on Friday. The public is invited.

For more information, call Bill Peoples, Chief of Public Affairs, at (615)736-7161.

